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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
 ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File
 Declassification/Release Instructions on File

TO : D/TR

DATE: 19 October 1954

FROM : [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Army Psychological Warfare Officers Course; Interview with Commander [REDACTED]

REFERENCE: Memo dtd 20 September 1954, subject: Army Psychological Warfare Officers Course

1. In further pursuance to par. 8 of referenced memorandum, I interviewed on 14 October [REDACTED] at present on duty with this Agency, assigned to PP/C (ext. 8483, 2036 L Bldg.).

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2. [REDACTED] participated in subject course from April to June 1954. This class consisted of 16 students, 11 of whom were army officers, 2 naval officers, one marine corps officer, and 2 USIA civilian employees. The average attendance of a class is between 25 and 30 students. The course is given 3 or 4 times per year.

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3. There was no entrance examination. Only about half of the officers participating had definite PW assignments. The Navy has no PW training of its own because it has such a small PW staff setup. In view of this fact Navy is allowed a certain quota of students in each army course, which quota, however, is not always fully used. [REDACTED] own attendance had been arranged for through the Military Personnel Section of the Agency while he was awaiting completion of his TOP SECRET clearance for work here.

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4. The course has a resident instructing staff of approximately 20, including both enlisted men and officers. Most staff members are college graduates, quite a few PHD's, primarily in psychology and social sciences. Approximately 80 percent of the lectures are given by officers. The enlisted men are primarily assigned to research tasks, to the preparation of lectures and for practical demonstrations. [REDACTED] was very favorably impressed by the high standards, the intellectual level and the hard work of the staff.

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Document No. 007 5. The time of the course was approximately divided as follows:

NO CHANGE in class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 04/01/78

75 percent lectures

10 percent seminars

15 percent practical demonstrations

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The main subjects of the lectures were listed in referenced memorandum. The seminars were partly devoted to further discussion of the topics treated in the lectures and partly to special problems. In one case, for instance, the class had to simulate a UN meeting with every student playing the role of the delegate of a certain foreign country and having to defend the policies and interests of that country. Practical demonstrations included leaflet drops from airplanes, use of loud speakers on tanks, surrender propaganda at a road block, firing of leaflet shells by artillery, etc.

6. Every week a written examination of one hour was given: this included both the checking of correct answers to specific questions and the writing of short essays on one of the subjects taught during that week. There was also a 1 hour oral critique every week. Once during the course every student had to prepare a paper of approximately 20 pages: he could choose the topic from a list of approximately 50 different topics or he could request permission to write on a topic of his own choice. For the preparation of these papers as well as supplement the lectures, students were given considerable reading time in the well-equipped, special reference library of the course, including both overt and classified reading material. Students could also take books out of the library and read in the barracks after library hours.

7. The class was divided in groups of 4 students each for such purposes as writing leaflets and radio scripts, solving tactical PW problems, etc. There was also competition between these groups as to the best solution for a given assignment.

8. [REDACTED] offered the following comments on the course:

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In his opinion it is too strictly adapted to specific army needs so that he doubts the value of this training even for the Navy (whose PW requirements obviously are more similar to that of the Army than the requirements of the Agency). He also criticized that too much emphasis was put on past experiences and no solutions were offered to the tactical problems which the Army must expect to face in the next war, for instance, tactical PW in atomic warfare. [REDACTED] does not believe that the course offers sufficient general knowledge on PW and related matters to justify regular attendance by CIA personnel. However, in view of the fact that he has been with us only a few months and has not had any operational experience, he suggested that a final decision as to the possible value of subject course for our training purposes should be made after a senior, experienced PP officer has gone through the course. In any case, he believes that the course might be useful for those of our officers who will have to work in the field in close cooperation with the Army. He mentioned, incidentally, that he is convinced that our training effort at [REDACTED] is in every respect far superior to anything Fort Bragg can offer.

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9. Conclusions and Recommendations: in view of the above, I can only suggest that the question as to whether or not to send one or two qualified PP officers to subject course for an additional "test," be submitted to C/PP for his decision and appropriate action. [REDACTED] struck me as a competent and unbiased witness and attendance of subject course appears, therefore, not to offer any over-all solution to our training problems in the PW field--except for personnel assigned to tactical PP missions in areas where a military or paramilitary situation is to be expected.

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cc: C/STD
C/PRS



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